

Thom

Good morning!

I will give you an Ottawa Gatineau Status Report

-most you are aware of -

some thoughts for the future

some you might not know :>)

Your comments and feedback would be appreciated

- Ottawa Gatineau (OG) Unit Set Up- I have close to 40 on my Emailing List (yes - I know- Doug Brunton and I have to compare Lists! ;>))but can expect 15 to 20 at a any meeting -we will probably end up at 50 in our area by end of year -with 20 -25 at meetings optimistically in New Year

- Executive - I have now a secretary and membership person -Matthew Carson & Doug Brunton - both are keen and dependable . (I had a secretary -JP Poirier - but he got out of Forces/Divorce - both at same time this Fall -so I lost him). My next OG Executive search will be for a Treasurer and a VP who can plan meaningful activities for Ottawa Gatineau -right now what is OG NATO Vets purpose to meet? Soon the novelty will wear off to attend meetings - this is a big issue and will be reflected in renewals of membership both locally and nationally. But one we can locally - and nationally I am sure overcome.

- Members

We might as well realize we have little if any hope realistically of attracting Afghanistan NATO Vets into our NATO Veterans Org - they will form their own group.Same for Bosnia vets. . We should focus on France /Germany vets and probably include Canadian based NORAD and even members of 1 Canadian Brigade Group who were technically the NATO reserve although stationed in Canada.

NORAD vets and NATO vets of 1 CIBG have no other home but us.

- QM We are still meeting at the War Museum - namely because it is free - any other Ottawa location wants rental money and we don't have any money. We have now a NATO banner /Gord Smith's kind Recruiting banners just received and a NATO wreath. (PS - you have 12 NATO banners ordered and paid for -if I forget remind me and I will "remind" them in a week or so - they are made by small Legion Office in remote part of Ottawa) Cant think of anything else - may be you might consider buying a NATO flag for each unit - the flag should be hung at each NATO Vets Branch Meeting.

- Activities Our meetings have been more social get together events - with the odd guest speaker. We should have other purposes to meet but cant think of any now. The plan next year:

1/ is to keep Legion dialogue -will drag on for year(s)

2/ gradually "kit up" OG Unit - starting with berets

3/ attend in Ottawa -myself and/or OG Executive meetings and events that NATO Veterans Org are invited to - being Ottawa and the Capital there are a surprising number

-everything from Silver Cross to ANZAC Day!

4/ plan on marching as a NATO Unit at the next years 11 November Remembrance Day parade- this parade is seen from coast to coast and it would be nice to see NATO flag and a NATO Veteran contingent march

5/ generally next year is establishing the OG Unit so it is not " a flash in the pan" - we need to have By -laws for National and for our Branch - we need to hold formal elections . This year was just starting from zero - next year will be establishing Unit as" permanent fixture ".

Well Thom you have been quite the spark plug for getting a NATO Veterans Group started. Now you enter nationally - as we are locally in Ottawa - moving from membership and set up to a national organization. You have grown from a Fredericton Unit to a national one thanks to your work. This must be hard on you -

the changeover - to separate your local demands from national - to have a Fredericton NB meeting and not mix up national items - to have a Fredericton Bt - laws and national by -laws - growing pains I guess they are called.

Good luck - we at Ottawa Gatineau are behind you

Gord

President Ottawa Gatineau NATO Veterans Org

, Nov 13, 2008 at 3:16 PM, Thom Joordens <joordens@nbnet.nb.ca> wrote:

Hi NATO Veterans

Attached you will find the new news letter and that is about 4 pages. Soon you will get the Minutes of the 3rd Annual meeting, the Financial Statement, Investing of Funds and a Voting Ballot

I am in the process of printing, collating, folding and stuffing of 161 envelopes that are going out to our members that are not on the net.

Besides I had 9 events to attend as part of Remembrance ceremony's. Luckily the weather at 5 C was bearably

Enjoy the Newsletter and please vote on the recommendations that are on the ballot

Thom Joordens President

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